

A 2015 study in the Journal of Applied Physiology, found that, on average, men had about 26 pounds more skeletal muscle mass than women. For example, in the Marine Corps, the Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force found that the musculoskeletal rate of injury for a woman was nearly twice the rate of injury for a man. And research at the Infantry Training Battalion found that the rate of injury for an enlisted woman was six times the rate of injury for a man. More muscle means more strength and less injury.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already upheld the constitutionality of an all-male draft. So why are we doing this? Why are we trying to draft our daughters? It is just not right.

Secondly, I have serious concerns about the lack of explicit accommodation provided in the text that would be needed to ensure we don't haphazardly draft two parents with dependents.

While I realize the bill modernizes language regarding to whom the President is authorized to grant deferments from training and service, which does take into consideration dependents, there is no explicit language to prevent both a mom and a dad from being drafted. That is greatly concerning to me. And it should be greatly concerning to all Americans.

I believe it is an issue that should be addressed by this body and not one determined by unelected officials at the Department of Defense.

The family unit has always and always will continue to play a critical role in forming the posterity of our Nation. And it is imperative that we strive to retain it to the extent within our power to do so and not to erode it. Ensuring women are never forced to sign up for Selective Service and, therefore, never drafted, would be the correct solution.

I also stand in opposition to section 529 of the NDAA, which would shred the due process rights of servicemembers while taking away their unalienable Second Amendment rights. Just think, this section of the NDAA would create the equivalent of a red flag law in the military to eliminate the due process rights of servicemembers who have fought to preserve those very rights for the rest of the country. That is the ultimate in hypocrisy.

I also stand in opposition to section 529A. It includes a prohibition that says an individual who engages in extremist activities or is a member of an extremist organization may not serve as a member of the Armed Forces.

The real issue is the definition of extremism: "The terms extremist activities and extremist organization have the meanings prescribed by the Secretary of Defense."

So it is up to the Secretary of Defense and, thus, under considerable influence of the administration and party in control to decide the meaning of the term.

Mr. Speaker, this area is ripe for First Amendment abuse.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord our shepherd, in You we lack nothing. In You we are refreshed by the stillness of Your spirit, restored as with life-giving water. In You we are given respite in fields of tranquility, peaceful pastures far away from the troubles which pursue us.

Yet, even when our paths are fraught with danger, precarious and unpopular crossroads, and challenging no-win situations, You strengthen our resolve with the hope of Your blessing.

When we are threatened by those who do not know us or who do not even wish to understand us, we need not be afraid for the promise of Your protection comforts us. A table of Your gracious welcome is set before us.

Anoint us, O Lord, and allow us to see how abundant are Your blessings. You lay before us a bounty, a feast of Your faithfulness.

Surely Your goodness and mercy are extended to us. Pursue us when we stray from them. Sweep us up in Your loving embrace when we, like sheep, are lost or afraid.

Then, may the length of our days be spent in the delight of Your presence.

In Your most merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CHILDCARE IS A CRITICAL ECONOMIC ISSUE

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, for too long, women in our workforce have struggled with almost insurmountable childcare issues. Due to our lack of investment, our economy has lost too many talented women as they try to juggle the demands of work and childcare.

After gaining significant ground in the seventies, eighties, and nineties, and expanding our workforce, and increasing our GDP in the process, women have not made significant gains in the workforce in the last two decades. Two decades where women faced economic penalties when they were forced to leave the workforce due to lack of quality and affordable child care. Two decades where, if we had just kept pace with some of our allies, we would have grown our GDP by another \$600 billion.

I rise today because women falling behind is the American middle class falling behind. Penalizing women in the workforce penalizes families and imperils opportunities for our children. And this crisis has been made exponentially worse by COVID.

That is why I am calling on all my colleagues to support legislation to ensure all families have access to quality and affordable childcare. Congress needs to realize this is not simply a women's issue or a children's issue. This is a critical economic issue.

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

(Mr. POSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Estuaries Week, a special time to raise awareness about the vital role estuaries play in our communities and our economies, and to encourage local involvement in caring for our diverse ecosystems.

My home in Florida is part of an estuary called the Indian River Lagoon. Supporting the health of our lagoon also supports vast economic, environmental, and recreational needs of our communities.

When our Nation's estuaries are thriving, we know our environment, our fishermen, our businesses and, most importantly, our families are thriving. I encourage my colleagues to join us in recognizing National Estuaries Week and the important role estuaries play in our communities.

BE HUMBLE, NOT ARROGANT ABOUT COVID

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)